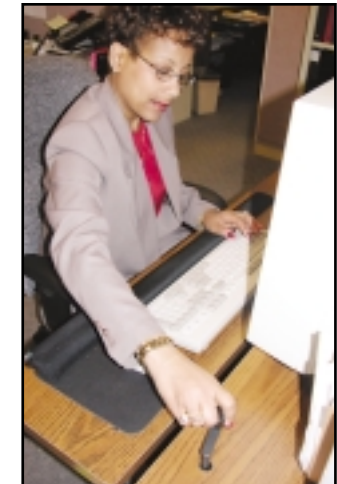




Sonic BOOMs...
The sound of freedom
[See Page B-1](#)



Ergonomics is taking the 'back breaking' out of work

[See Page A-2](#)



Heart Link offers new spouses a closer look at the Air Force way of life

[See Page A-11](#)



Two JSTARS members receive STEP promotions

[See Page B-8](#)



Base and schools prepare for possible emergency situations

[See Page A-4](#)

FULL STREAM AHEAD



Atlanta Percussion Trio visits Robins.

Go to:
<https://wwwmil.robins.af.mil/pa/stream>

Black Knights saddle up

By Lanorris Askew
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Twenty-one-year-old Airman 1st Class Saraha Hughes had no idea where she would be laying her head in a few days.

She didn't know if she'd packed enough, too much or too little, but that didn't quell the excitement of her very first deployment.

A jet engine mechanic with the 19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Hughes is among a number of 19th Air Refueling Group members who received deployment orders last week.

"This is what I signed up for," she said. "I actually asked to be put into this deployment – I feel very proud of myself."

Hughes admits that the unknown has her feeling a bit anxious.

"I'm not sure of what to expect, but like I said, this is what I signed on for and I am ready to do my job," she said.

Col. Barbara Faulkenberry, 19th ARG commander, mirrored those comments, stating that all of the "Black Knights" are ready to do their jobs.

"Though we have a lot of members preparing to deploy, we also have a large number who will be left behind in support of homeland defense," she said.

Faulkenberry said the KC-135 is also ready to go. Though no numbers were given on the number to be deployed, she said the airframe is ready for its mission.

"We are able to move all of ourselves," said Faulkenberry. "We don't need any strategic airlift to help us get to our location. In this aircraft (KC-135) we have enough room for cargo carrying and people carrying capacity to take our organization anywhere in the world to accomplish our mission."

[See KNIGHTS... Page A-2](#)



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

Top, Senior Airman Charlie Haskins packs communications cable for shipment. At right, Col. Barbara Faulkenberry, 19th ARG commander, talks to media prior to deployment. Above, the marquis sign outside of the group headquarters displays a message for the deploying Black Knights.



Joint STARS takes off for second deployment

By Lanorris Askew
Lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

Two E-8C Joint STARS aircraft and several dozen members of the 116th Air Control Wing answered the call of duty March 5 as they headed to an undisclosed forward operating location to support Central Command's theatre operations.

According to Lt. Col. John Labuda, 116th ACW spokesperson, this is the unit's second deployment this year.

"The United States is repositioning some of its military forces where they're required to support

the president's Global War on Terrorism and to prepare for future contingencies as directed," he said.

Those headed out say they are proud to serve and ready for action.

Lt. Col. Willie Nunn, 116th Airborne Command and Control Squadron commander, said he is glad to be able to support this tasking and lead his detachment.

"Our kids train for this every day, and they are ready to do the job," he said. "Once we get there and get situated, whatever they call for us to do we will be able to make things happen."

Airman 1st Class Audrey Hughes, air operations

technician, said she is highly excited about this deployment, which is her very first.

"Honestly, I am excited to be able to fight for my country and work for the president and work on the war on terrorism. It's really something to be excited about," she said.

The youngest on her crew, the California native has been in the Air Force for two years and says her parents couldn't be prouder that their daughter is going to defend her country.

"They are a little scared, but that's just natural

[See 116th... Page A-2](#)

Stevenson bids Robins and 30-year career goodbye

By Lanorris Askew
Lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

Calling Robins the perfect last assignment, Brig. Gen. Lawrence H. Stevenson said goodbye to the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center and a 30-year military career that culminated with his retirement ceremony March 3.

"I am honored to have served my last mission here," he said. "I will miss Robins. You don't find many communities that embrace you the way this one does."

Stevenson said during his time at Robins he learned a lot. Beginning his tenure as vice commander from the standpoint of a career pilot entering Air Force Materiel Command for the first time, he recounted his arrival as quite a bewildering experience.

"I felt like dog watching television," he said. "I knew there was a lot going on around me. I just didn't know what it was."

With two years under his belt, Stevenson said he has a new appreciation for the depot.

"As operators (pilots) we never understood what the depot did and why it took so long to overhaul the aircraft," he said. "But after being



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

Above, Brig. Gen. Larry Stevenson, gives his exit interview to local media at the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center headquarters. At right, Stevenson sits in the cockpit of one of the 19th Air Refueling Group's KC-135s with his grandsons Grant, center, and Bryce Prater.



here for two years, I sincerely appreciate the work and skills that go into depot maintenance."

Though today's military climate is one of uncertainty, Stevenson said he believes he is leaving the Air Force in good hands.

"The Air Force has changed a lot technology-wise, but we still have the good, quality people that we need to run the Air Force," he said. "I think our military members are well-trained, well equipped and they're

ready to do the job. If you talk to any of our deployed people, they are happy to be doing the mission they were trained for."

[See STEVENSON ... Page A-3](#)

Taking the ‘back-breaking’ out of work

By Holly J. Logan
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Carmen Trejo said the Ergonomics Work Group is taking the pain out of work. As a secretary with the Operational Contracting Division, she knows first hand the benefits that come with using ergonomically sound equipment. That’s because the EWG helped her office set Trejo up with an adaptable workstation in February of last year.

“As a secretary, 75 percent of my job is sedentary,” she said. “I have Multiple Sclerosis, and the adjustments they made to my work area have made my work life much easier. They’re very professional and great about meeting workers’ physical needs on the job.” Robins Ergonomic Work Group was established in the early 1990s, and according to Mary Ann Gahhos, civilian ergonomics program manager for the occupational health section of the Public Health Flight, it has been helping members of Team Robins improve their work posture ever since.

“Ergonomics has been a popular term used in advertisements for everything from automobile design to potato peelers,” she said. “The word essentially means, ‘fitting the workplace to the worker.’ This means designing the workplace, jobs, tools, and equipment based on human capacities and limitations. The golden rule in ergonomics is that one size does not fit all.” While one size may not fit all in the workplace, Gahhos said she and others in the

Ergonomics Work Group are striving to make the work environment more comfortable for Robins’ employees.

“A consequence of the information technology revolution is that many jobs have changed dramatically,” she said. “Workers spend a great deal of time sitting or standing in one position, at computer terminals, control panels, and assembly lines. This often means the worker is repeatedly assuming awkward and extreme postures. Such problems have meant increased work-related muscular-skeletal disorders, as well as medical and compensation costs.”

What the Ergonomic Working Group Does:

- Continuously improves understanding of human factors and biomechanics through local training, articles and experience in the industrial and administrative workplace.
- Provides assistance to employees in identifying ergonomic challenges that may result in workplace muscle-skeletal disorders.
- Evaluates workstations and work tasks, using observation, photos and measurements to determine ergonomic challenges and possible solutions.
- Researches catalogs, the Web and other resources to gather information and specifications about equipment design that could be used to alleviate the awkward postures, forces, vibration or repetition in work tasks for Robins’ employees.
- Communicates ideas through words, photos and drawings for input to other team members, supervisors and workers.
- Organizes project information for presentation to the team.
- Tracks and expedites projects through completion, test phase and feedback to ensure solutions work.
- Understands and uses team skills to work with others of differing opinions and ideas to find the best solutions.



Benita K. Wilson, a personnel staff specialist with the 78th Mission Support Group, is but one of the many employees to benefit from attention to ergonomics. Her work station is able to be adjusted for her personal work requirements.

KNIGHTS

Continued from Page A-1

That mission, according to Faulkenberry, is providing air-refueling support for Air Force, Navy and coalition aircraft. “Any aircraft on a humanitarian mission or a combat mission generally requires in-flight air refueling,” she said. “That is what makes our nation’s power projection capability as significant as it is, because no other nation is able to pick up and go anywhere in the world, air refueling along the way and then providing humanitarian assistance or combat power in the theater.” Maj. Greg Scheer, a KC-135 pilot since 1991, said the unit has been tasked to support an air bridge. “The air bridge enables the rest of our troops to get over supplies and assets into theater,” he said. “Our job is to refuel people in order to facilitate that.” Because of that role, Scheer called the unit an extender. “We get people further to the fight or we get cargo back home or into countries,” he said. “We are like a filling station half way on that long interstate road.”

Ensuring that all necessary equipment is available and ready, the combat communications element and life support were busy at work packing items ranging from survival

What to know:

The mission of the 19th Air Refueling Group is to provide worldwide in-flight refueling for intercontinental and intertheater combat, logistics and combat support aircraft of the United States and its allies as directed by the Department of Defense. The 19th maintains constant readiness to implement immediate, sustained, long-range aerial refueling to satisfy the requirements of the Single Integrated Operational Plan contingency, deployments and special operations taskings. The 19th also provides critical C-5 field maintenance.

vests to radios. Airman 1st Class Chad Carswell, aircrew life support specialist, was hard at work preparing aircrew defense ensembles and other chemical defense gear for his deploying counterparts. Though he is not deploying himself, he says he is confident in his team. “Training here in the 19th is very good,” he said. I am not worried one bit about their safe return.”



Members of the 116th Air Control Wing board an E-8C JSTARS aircraft prior to deployment to an undisclosed location.



Maj. Gen. David Poythress



Airman 1st Class Audrey Hughes, an air operations technician with the 116th ACW, said she is highly excited about this deployment, which is her very first.



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp
Mary Ann Gahhos talks to a class about carpal tunnel syndrome. There are a number of products available for office environments that help prevent the condition.

Kim Hatcher, chairperson of the affirmative employment section of the 78th Mission Support Group, said the EWG has made a world of difference in her office. “The Ergonomics Work Group, and in particular, Ms. Gahhos’ efforts, have led to evaluating all the employees’ work stations to determine what interventions might be helpful. To date, three work station interventions (improved seating, adjustable computer tables and ergonomic training) have been accomplished.” Hatcher said her office has benefited greatly from this program, and she is confident that the work environment nurtures productivity and efficiency. “I’d encourage other organizations to also consider how the Ergonomics Work Group could assist them in preventing future work-related illnesses and evaluating their work areas for possible ergonomic interventions,” she said.

“Ergonomics has been a popular term used in advertisements for everything from automobile design to potato peelers. The word essentially means, ‘fitting the workplace to the worker.’ This means designing the workplace, jobs, tools, and equipment based on human capacities and limitations. The golden rule in ergonomics is that one size does not fit all.”

Mary Ann Gahhos
civilian ergonomics program manager for the occupational health section of the Public Health Flight

What’s at stake

Injuries arising from poor ergonomic conditions typically involve bones, muscles, joints, tendons, and nerves. Symptoms include:

- Painful Joints
- Pain, tingling, or numbness in the hands or feet
- Back or neck pain
- Pain in the wrists, shoulders, forearms, knees, etc.
- Fingers or toes turning white
- Shooting or stabbing pains in the arms or legs
- Swelling or inflammation
- Stiffness
- Weaknesses or clumsiness in the hands
- Burning sensations
- Heaviness

These symptoms could also be indicators of other medical conditions. If concerned, check with your physician. All work activities should permit the worker to adopt several different , but equally healthy and safe postures. Where muscle force is exerted, the largest appropriate muscle groups available should perform it. Work activities should be performed with joints at about mid-point of their range of movement. This applies particularly to the head, trunk and upper limbs.

116th

Continued from Page A-1

for all parents,” she said. Maj. Gen. David Poythress, Adjutant General of Georgia, came down to wish the deploying unit members well. “The crews are well trained, morale is high and they are ready to go,” said Poythress. He said when the unit stood up he didn’t envision they would go out so soon, but the aircraft and personnel are ready. “These are very unique aircraft, the only ones of their kind in the United States inventory, and when they go things are pretty serious,” he said. “We are looking forward to the role they are going to play. Poythress said if there is a war, clearly the 116th will be deeply involved in it. “As I said before, these are absolutely unique aircraft with a unique mission. Their role is to track moving targets on the ground, and that is obviously pertinent in any kind of war.” The 116th ACW is the only unit equipped with the E-8C aircraft, more commonly known as Joint STARS. The E-8C Joint STARS mission provides air and land component commanders with a near real time ground battlefield picture. The 116th ACW is a blended unit, and is also the first “Total Force” unit in the U.S. Air Force, combining Air National Guard and active duty members in one wing.



Planting a tree

Above, Brig. Gen. Larry Stevenson and his wife, Mary Lou, stand in front of the red maple planted by Environment Management in the forest at Robins Air Force Base. The tree was planted Feb 26 in honor of Stevenson and his work as chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee. According to Bob Sargent, EM chose the red maple because it is one of Stevenson's favorite trees.



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

Clockwise from top: Brig. General Larry Stevenson speaks to a packed house during his retirement ceremony March 3. Senior leadership applauds Stevenson during his retirement ceremony in the Century of Flight Hangar at the Museum of Aviation. Members of the Robins Honor Guard retire Brig. Gen. Stevenson's flag. Lt. Gen. Charles A. Coolidge, Jr., presents Stevenson with his certificate of retirement.

STEVENSON

Continued from Page A-1

He said he sees bringing in and retaining good, quality people as a key issue for the future.

“The quality of people here at Robins is outstanding,” he said. “We went into the surge mode right after 9/11 and have been in that mode ever since. Our customers are happy with us, and so are those in the field.”

During his retirement ceremony, led by Lt. Gen. Charles A. Coolidge, Jr., Air Force Materiel Command vice commander, Stevenson said he is leav-

ing the Air Force a rich man, not in money, but in blessings from God.

“I am happy to look out and see so many family and friends in the audience,” he said.

Commending Stevenson’s work, as well as that of his wife, Mary Lou, Coolidge called the two a great team.

“They are a team whose equal we have never seen,” said Coolidge.

In his last media interview, Stevenson said he and his wife have nothing to tie them down and plan to travel for a couple of months.

He said they will end up in Montgomery, Ala., where they will “buy a house, get jobs and lead normal

lives again.”

During the ceremony, Stevenson received certificate of retirement, the Distinguished Service Medal, a Certificate of Appreciation and a flag that was flown in his honor over the Georgia State capital.

Brig. Gen. Darryl Scott became new vice commander March 3.

Scott, a 1974 graduate of the Air Force Academy, has spent most of his career in procurement and contracting.

His last assignment was deputy assistant secretary for contracting in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

**Armed Forces Com
56709701**

Base and schools prepare for possible emergency situations

By Lanorris Askew
lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

With the threat of possible war on the horizon and changing threat conditions, Robins Air Force Base and the Houston County School system want to ensure that all students are in good hands in case of an emergency situation.

George Falldine, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center plans and program director, said the school system composed a letter that was sent home to all parents last week detailing procedures to follow in case of an emergency.

“Though the schools have always had a variety of plans on how to deal with emergencies, as we continue into the post 9-11 world they have begun to have concerns about whether their plans are adequate to cover all situations,” said Falldine.

One of these possible situations involves the children of base personnel and includes the base entering what is known as restrictive access.

“The purpose of the letter is two-fold,” said Marianne Melnick, Houston County School System assistant superintendent for student services. “The first purpose, of course, is to detail school emergency procedures. The second, which is relevant to base personnel, is to make sure all children with parents working on Robins Air Force Base have updated information and alternates designated to pick them up if the base were to enter restrictive access.”

During restrictive access no one is allowed on or off of the installation.

“This is a proactive measure to take care of our children that are associated with the base,” said Melnick. “It’s something I hope we never have to address, but in case of such an emergency we want to make sure that all parent anxiety is alleviated.”

What to know:

Letters were sent home to all parents of Houston County school children Feb. 27 and were due back March 5.

If you have a child in a Houston County school, and you have not seen the letter, please contact the Houston County School System.

Falldine said the schools have always worked together well with the base.

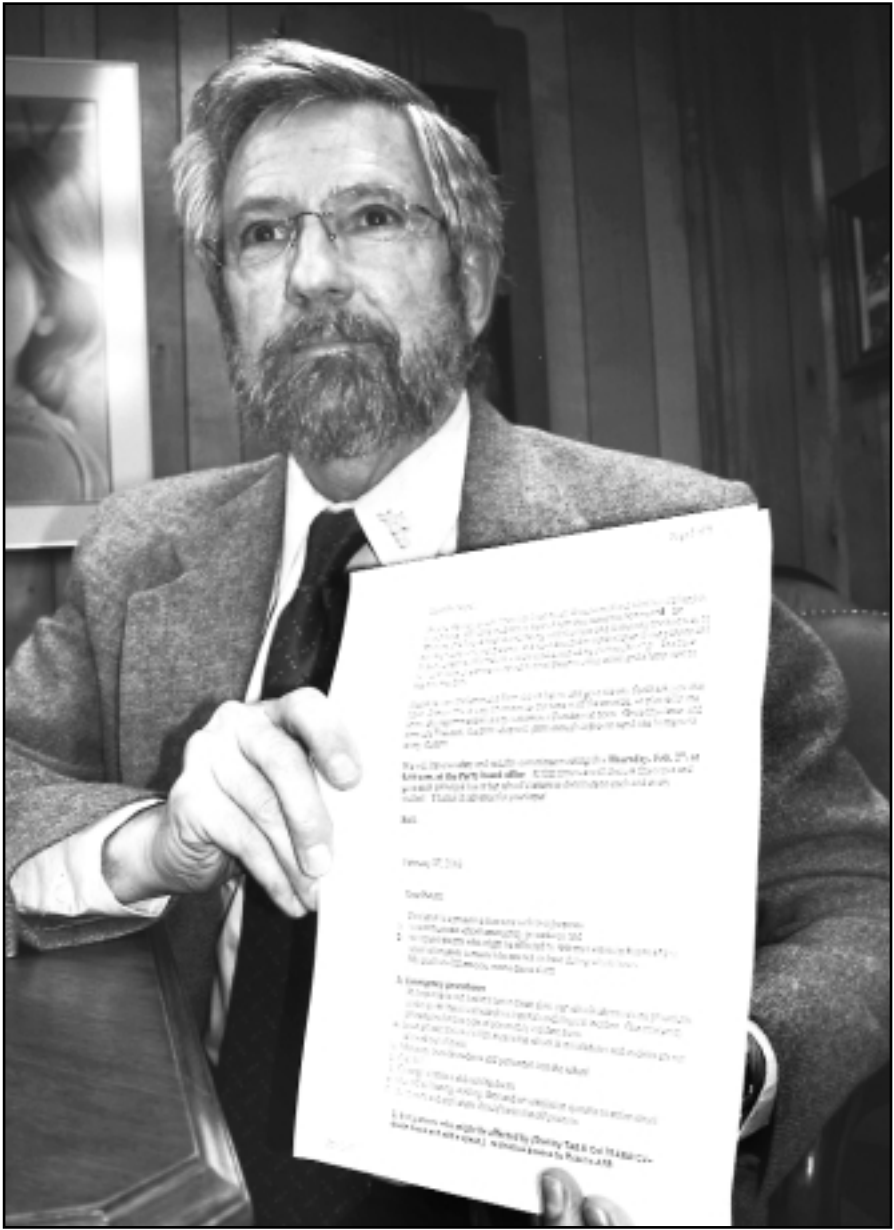
“The schools are very sensitive to the heavy influence of the base and the number of students in the system whose parents are employed by the base in military, civilian and contractor roles,” he said.

He said it is very important that parents be made aware that the letters have been sent out.

“It is amazing the number of documents that are sent home and never reach parents,” he said. “We hope that publicizing this will help by letting them know the letter has been sent home with their child.”

For parents who do not receive the letter or whose child misplaced it, another copy can be acquired through the child’s school.

Falldine emphasizes that parents or guardians not designate alternates that work on Robins, they need to designate someone who would not be restricted due to threat conditions on base.



U. S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp
George Falldine, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center Plans and Programs director, holds a copy of the letter that was sent home to parents last week.

Toastmasters contest winners announced

The Warner Robins Area 52 of Toastmasters International held two contests March 1. The two contests were the International Speech Contest and the Tall Tales speech Contest. Winners will go on to compete in Columbus, Ga., March 15 in the division contest.

In the Picture at left are: (from left to right) Keith Dierking (2nd place International Contest), Patrick Ivey (1st Place International Speech contest), Sherman Elliott (Area Governor), Robert Mitchell (1st place Tall Tales), Sparkle Graham (2nd place Tall Tales) and Bruce Gaynor (3rd place Tall Tales).

Toastmasters International is a non-profit organization focused on improving leadership and communication skills. There are three clubs on base, Procurement, Aerospace and Ravens Toastmasters, and a total of five clubs in the Warner Robins area. For more information, contact Claude Payton at 923-1276



courtesy photo

Macon Coliseum
56713301

huntington villa
56746301

Patterson Chiro
56751501

Hail and Farewell

Maj. Gen. Donald J. Wetekam, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander, will conduct a standup officers' Hail and Farewell March 21, at 4:30 in the Ballroom of the Officers' Club. Spouses are invited to attend the event and the fellowship that follows. For more information, contact 2d Lt Luke Williams, 778 CES/CECE at 6-3533, or email Luke.Williams@robins.af.mil

Ribbon cutting ceremony

The 78th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Traffic Management Flight, recently moved to building 914 from building 301. They resumed regular operations for their customers Feb. 10. The remodeling of building 914 began in July 2002 at a cost of \$260,000. This new facility and its location, next to the Military Personnel Flight, ultimately benefits the customers who are transitting in or leaving Robins Air Force Base. The interior design also provides customer privacy during one-on-one entitlement briefings. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new building will take place Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. in the parking lot of building 914. All customers are invited to come and see the new office and enjoy refreshments. Col. Tom Smoot, 78th Air Base Wing commander, will host the event.

2002 Awards banquet Friday

Maj. Gen. Donald J. Wetekam, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander, will host the 2002 Robins Air Force Base Annual Awards Banquet March 13, at 6 p.m., in the Museum of Aviation, Century of Flight hangar. The guest speaker will be General Robert H. Foglesong, Vice Chief of Staff, Department of the Air Force. Attire is as follows: Military-Semiformal or Mess Dress; Civilian - Semiformal or Black Tie. Cost is \$20 for club members, \$22 for non-members. The meal will be chicken cordon blue with oven roasted potato and buttered corn, tossed garden salad with dressing, and cake. R.S.V.P Monday through your unit first sergeant .

Contact the Robins Rev-Up staff at 926-2137, or by e-mail at:

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Acoustic Products
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REX Audio/video
56647901

Fickling
56679802

Market Street
56746201

A letter from the Front

■ Written from the perspective of the 150,000 service members currently in the Middle East

By Col. Barbara Faulkenberry
19th Air Refueling Group commander

Greetings from the Middle East, where I'm deployed in support of the war against terror.

It's sure a long way from home. This tent isn't nearly as comfortable as my place back home. I miss my family, my friends, my stuff.

We face many challenges over here, yet I'm extremely confident that we will be successful in our mission. Our strength comes from our training, our leadership (both officers and NCOs) and our belief in the importance of our mission.

But most of all, our strength comes from you – from those we've left at home. It is to you back home that I send this letter.

The words of a great American leader, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, written over 60 years ago, eloquently express what we seek and why we serve.

"In the future days which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms. The first is freedom of speech and expression – everywhere in the world. The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way – everywhere in the world. The third is freedom from want, which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants – everywhere in the world. The fourth is freedom from fear ..."

We serve today in the Middle East to ensure the freedom



Faulkenberry

of speech and expression, the freedom to worship, the freedom from want, and the freedom from fear for Americans as well as for those in the Middle East.

To those of you in uniform back on the home front: there was a time when the dangers were only faced by those deployed. But now at home, your vigilance is what ensures our families' safety.

From airborne homeland defense missions to gate guard duty, you're protecting the America we've left behind. President Roosevelt applauded your ideals, "Those who man our defenses and those behind them who build our defenses must have the stamina and the courage which comes from an unshakable belief in the manner of life which they are defending."

I know you're short handed with so many of us over here. None of the day-to-day missions of medical care, civil engineers, security forces, services and all the rest go away when we deploy. But you do have to accomplish those same missions with much fewer airmen and many long hours.

You also must continue the training of tomorrow's warfighters, so that we who are deployed can one day turn over our duties to the next trained force. There's a lot of Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve airmen who have volunteered or been activated serving here in the Middle East and at home.

Your service is invaluable in accomplishing the mission that the President has given the military. Thanks for being there for America when our nation needs you most.

To the Warner Robins community and the American public at large, your support is more treasured than you know. The forces here are literally powered by your encouragement. We take the orders of the leaders you elected. We fight for you.

President Roosevelt cautioned that, "Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." Knowing that you appreciate our service makes our sacrifices worthwhile.

Thanks especially for your support of our families back home. Your appreciation of the sacrifices our families make goes a long way for their morale. I'm confident that if my family has an emergency while I'm over here that you will come together as a community and help take care

of their needs.

Knowing this takes a heavy burden off my mind. And thanks for those daily prayers for our safety and our fast return.

To the veterans of past wars and conflicts, please rest assured that we will protect our nation's freedoms just as you did for past generations. It is our turn to protect you; it is an honor and a responsibility that is sacred to us.

The legacy that you've given us is one of incredible commitment to duty, selflessness, sacrifice, courage and teamwork. The legacy is also one of success and victory despite any challenge and the inevitable fog of war. Be assured that we will complete our mission and obtain our nation's objectives, as you did before us. Your legacy inspires us. We will not let you nor the American public down when you need us most.

Finally, to our families and friends, our husbands and wives, our children, our parents, those we love – being apart from you is so hard. We miss you so much. But we've gone to the Middle East for you, to provide you a life without fear. We are able to do what we must because of our love for you and our absolute determination to safeguard liberty and security for our children.

President Roosevelt's words praise the spirit of the airmen who serve over here in the Middle East and the spirit of the American public. "This nation has placed its destiny in the hands, heads and hearts of its millions of free men and women, and its faith in freedom under the guidance of God. Freedom means the supremacy of human rights everywhere. Our support goes to those who struggle to gain those rights and keep them. Our strength is our unity of purpose. To that high concept there can be no end save victory."

Indeed, our victory will be to ensure the freedom of speech and expression, the freedom to worship, the freedom from want, the freedom from fear for our families. God bless those who serve their nation during this challenging time. God bless this nation. God bless all the peoples of the world who know not President Roosevelt's freedoms.

Editor's note: The quotes from President Roosevelt come from his address to the 77th Congress on January 6, 1941.

AFMC people building upon the centennial legacy

By Gen. Lester L. Lyles
Commander, Air Force Materiel Command

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — As we begin our year-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of powered flight, I am amazed by the tremendous advances in technology we've made in such a seemingly short time.

Since the Wright Brothers' first flight and the development of the aircraft as a weapon system, the United States has become the most powerful country the world has known. Our technological edge has made airpower a decisive factor in every military engagement since World War II.

Providing increased capa-

bilities to America's warfighters to maintain that edge is the heart and soul of our mission in Air Force Materiel Command, and I could not be more proud of the way the men and women of this command have achieved that mission this past year.

AFMC people are building upon the centennial legacy every day by developing, acquiring and sustaining the most advanced air and space technologies and systems to give our warfighters the capabilities they need to accomplish their missions and return home safely.

We developed and fielded a Wind Corrected Munitions Dispenser, which so dramatically increased the accuracy of cluster bombs dropped by

B-52 bombers that the venerable aircraft could be used for close air support for the first time in its 50-year history.

AFMC people increased the Air Force's capability by arming the Predator unmanned aerial vehicle with the Hellfire missile. This powerful weapon system provides near real-time video to decision makers to identify targets, engage the targets and accomplish battle damage assessment quickly and accurately.

Our people tested and delivered the Global Hawk unmanned aerial vehicle to the warfighters engaged in Operation Enduring Freedom, even though the high-tech UAV is still in the Engineering, Manufacturing

and Development phase of acquisition.

Men and women in our depots implemented a program called, "Lean," to cut costs, overtime and repair time throughout depot maintenance processes. In many cases, they've cut repair cycle time and put aircraft back into the hands of the operational commands sooner for use in the war on terrorism.

Their work on the KC-135 tankers is a prime example. Workers reduced that aircraft's depot repair days from 400 in the year 2000 to 225 in 2002. Putting that into perspective, what took a little more than a year to do a couple of years ago now takes about seven months — putting systems back into the

warfighter's hands is what AFMC is all about.

AFMC people are completely dedicated to supporting the warfighter. We are taking a hard look at everything we do to determine how we can transform to improve that support.

We're using programs such as divestiture to get rid of activities or tasks that are no longer needed, and spiral development to provide increased capabilities to warfighters when they need it most — today!

We're working to ensure we have the right people with the right experience in the right jobs through workforce shaping. We're using an approach called Enterprise Leadership to make all of our systems work with each

other.


We're bringing the warfighter into the development and testing phases of our weapon systems to ensure we're providing the capabilities they need. The bottom line — AFMC is developing an expeditionary mindset, becoming more efficient and responsive — easier for the warfighter to do business with!

The men and women of AFMC have done an outstanding job this past year, and I am extremely proud and yet humbled to serve with you! As heirs to the Wright Brothers' legacy, AFMC people are continuing today to deliver Proactive Rapid Integrated Dominant Effects to America's warfighters.


Action Line is an open door program for Robins Air Force Base personnel to ask questions, make suggestions or give kudos to make Robins a better place to work and live.

Please remember that the most efficient and effective way to resolve a problem or complaint is to directly contact the organization responsible. This gives the organization a chance to help you, as well as a chance to improve their processes. To contact the Action Line, call 926-2886 day or night, or for quickest response e-mail to one of the following addresses: If sending from a military e-mail system select, Robins

Commanders' Action Line



Col. Tom Smoot, Jr.
Commander,
78th Air Base Wing



Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam
Commander,
Warner Robins
Air Logistics Center

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Robins employees live by Air Force creed

Sir, my uncle was in town recently for the holidays and accompanied me to the fitness center. Late that afternoon, after the gym had closed, he discovered his wallet was missing and determined that the gym was the last place he had it. Because he was heading back to Texas that night he was especially desperate to find it. After confirming that no one was at the gym we headed for the Law Enforcement desk where Master Sgt. St. Cyr contacted the Services department to find someone with keys to the fitness center. Within a

short time, Staff Sgt. Wilson met us at the gym and, while we searched the locker room for the wallet, she discovered a note at the front desk. The wallet had been turned in and locked in the fitness center safe. I'd like to thank the folks involved for their professionalism and courtesy while helping my panic-stricken uncle. From the unknown person who discovered and turned in the wallet, to the fitness center employee who secured it and took the time to communicate this to others, to Master Sgt. St Cyr who reacted quickly to a (presumably) low priority issue, and especially to Staff Sgt. Wilson for interrupting her valuable time off to come to our aid. What could have been a terrible experience was instead a confirmation that the folks who work at Robins live by the

Air Force creed - integrity, service, excellence.

Col. Smoot replies: Thank you for your appreciative comments on our team. Without a doubt, the caring and hard working staff both at the Fitness Center and at Security Forces puts meaning into "service" when we talk about our objective of top quality customer service - both here and at deployed locations. We are very lucky to have individuals of this caliber on our team, to include the person who turned in the wallet at the front desk of the Fitness Center. We will ensure the folks you singled out are recognized for their continued hard work and the world-class service they provide to each and every customer.



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U.S. Air Force photo by Gary Cutrell

Spouses participate in an activity during the Heartlink kickoff. The program is designed to introduce spouses to the Air Force way of life.



Putting a family face on the Air Force

By Chris Zdrakas
78th Air Base Wing

Robins Air Force Base last week launched its version of Heartlink, a new program that familiarizes new and nearly new Air Force spouses with military life and base services.

Planned by the Family Support Center, Heartlink introduces spouses to Air Force mission, customs, traditions, protocol, support resources and other services and in general, makes them feel more at home in military life. Its target range is spouses who have been with the military family five or fewer years.

The Robins Chapel Annex was home base for the first in what will be a quarterly effort. Twenty-one spouses, whose Air Force experience ranged from a few months to many years, attended. Military spouses with longer tenures were either there as observers or were 'key spouses' on base. (Key spouses assist families of military members who are deployed.)

Col. Tom Smoot, com-

Wing, presented an informational briefing introducing Robins' missions and how they relate to the Department of Defense. The briefing also touched on facilities and services, which other speakers expanded on during the day. Smoot returned at the program's close to present coins to Heartlink graduates.

He described the program as "an excellent introduction to military life from a family perspective."

"The Air Force is very much a family, and its strength relies on both active-duty members and those who support them at home," he said. "In Heartlink and other programs we are striving to let family members know how important they are to the global force – that the home front is as critical to us as the strategic front.

"It's been said that in the Air Force we recruit the individual and retain the family. To me, that's recognition that families play a decisive role not only in a military member's decision to remain in the Air Force, but ultimately in the member's ability to be successful

Family Support Center Director Christine Parker said response to the program from spouses was positive.

"A couple of people said they had no idea how much was out there for military families," she said, "so it was an eye opener for some. Someone else had a problem she had been trying to solve for months and learned where she could go to get it taken care of."

Another spouse said that she knew the Air Force had many rules and regulations, but never completely understood customs and courtesies.

Among the speakers during the daylong program were representatives from the base chapel, Health and Wellness Center, legal office, life skills, TRICARE and financial management.

The day was more than a series of briefings, though. Family Support planned games like "What's My Line" to further familiarize spouses with different Air Force functions. A continental breakfast, lunch, and goodie bags were included.

Family Support will refine its presentation for the next Heartlink program

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